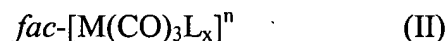


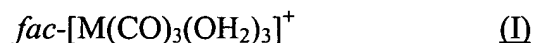
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) A method of preparing a compound of formula:



comprising reacting a ligand L_x with a compound of formula (I)



wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re ;

L_x is a non-aromatic aminopolycarboxylate multidentate ligand containing at least three carboxylate groups; and

n is a charge of the ligand L_x increased with one + charge;

comprising reacting a compound of formula (I) prepared according to claim 1 with ligand L_x .

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the reaction with ligand L_x takes place in the presence of a halide.
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)

10. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed between about 20EC and 100EC.

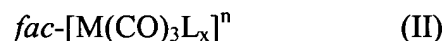
11. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed at about 75EC.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said aminopolycarboxylate ligand is selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), ~~iminodiacetic acid (IDA)~~, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate.

13. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is not bidentate.

14. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is tridentate.

15. (currently amended): A compound of formula:



wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc, ¹⁸⁶Re or ¹⁸⁸Re;

L_x is a non-aromatic multidentate aminopolycarboxylate ligand containing at least three carboxylate groups; and

n is the sum of the charge of the ligands L_x.

16. (original) The compound of claim 15, wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)
23. (original) A kit for carrying out the method of claim 6, comprising a lyophilized formulation including a basic borate buffer, a reducing agent soluble in water but not substantially decomposed by water and a metal M which is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re .
24. (original) The kit of claim 23 wherein said reducing agent is KBH_4 .
25. (original) The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes lactose.
26. (original) The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes L-tartaric acid.
27. (canceled)
28. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23 wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.
29. (currently amended) The compound of claim 15 wherein said aminopolycarboxylate ligand is selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), ~~iminodiacetic acid (IDA)~~, nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate.